

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are requested in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, which place the application into condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 16-18 and 20 are pending in this application. Claim 16 is amended. Support for the amendment can be found, for example on page 2, lines 16-27, of the specification. No new matter is added.

It is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that these claim are and were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments of the claims herein are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 or 112; but simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Furthermore, it is explicitly stated that the amendments should not give rise to any estoppel, as they are not narrowing amendments.

II. THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1ST PARAGRAPH, ARE OVERCOME

Claims 1-14, 16-18 and 20 were rejected under Section 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking enablement. Claim 16 has been revised as suggested by the Examiner on page 5 of the Office Action. Applicants thank the Examiner for her helpful remarks. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the enablement rejection are requested.

III. THE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION IS OVERCOME

Claim 1 was provisionally rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claim 1 of co-pending application no. 10/837,130, in view of Carpenter. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal are requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any minor issues arise that can be resolved over the telephone. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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